The Washington Memorial Chapel

Valley Forge

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The Corporate Title

"The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, Pa.

The Rev. W. Herbert Burk, D.D., *Founder and First Rector*
The Rev. John Robbins Hart, Ph.D., *Rector*
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WARDENS

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VESTRYMEN

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THE MARTHA WASHINGTON GUILD

Mrs. F. H. Harjes, *President*
Mrs. Robert Strine, *Secretary protem*
Mrs. Henderson Supplee, Sr., *Treasurer*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11:00 A. M.—Morning Prayer and Sermon
Holy Communion, First Sunday
3:00 P. M.—State Sunday Service
8:00 P. M.—Bell Recital—Savilla King Booth
(May—October inclusive)

The Washington Memorial National Carillon is played every hour on the hour from 10 A. M. until 5 P. M. and at sunset.

A Visit to the Chapel

The Chapel is a memorial to George Washington and is filled with memorials of him. In the niche is the most finished statue of President Washington made since his death. It is called "Valley Forge" and represents him bearing the burdens of the war. You can see the anxiety in his face, determination in the grip of the sword, and confidence and hope in the pose of the whole figure. This is the work of Franklin Simmons, the great American Sculptor.

The Lectern

The lectern is the only monument at Valley Forge to a British Soldier. When this was dedicated, Lord Bryce asked Dr. Burk to allow him to make the address as he wanted to acknowledge it personally for he said it was a tribute to the British Empire. Unfortunately, Congress adjourned that week and he had to stay in Washington and make his reports, but he sent Mr. Wilfred Powell, the British Consul General, who in his address spoke of the Chapel as "The American Westminster" because so many patriots are commemorated here.

Declaration of Independence Tablet

The largest stone tablet over the Door of the Allies was unveiled July 4, 1926, in tribute to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Honorable James M. Beck was the orator of the day. The tablet was designed and carved by Miss Martha M. Hovenden, the talented daughter of the late Thomas Hovenden, who painted "Breaking Home Ties," "Bringing Home the Bride," et cetera. The central figure is America cutting the cords which bound her to the Mother Country. To the left and right are bas-reliefs of George Mason, the author of the Bill of Rights, and Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence. The arms of the thirteen States and the names of the signers are beautifully carved, as is the message of the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." The tablet was given by the Daughters of America of the State of Pennsylvania.

Framers of the Constitution Tablet

The large stone tablet over the Inauguration Door was unveiled May 30, 1936, in tribute to the Framers of the Constitution. The Hon. Theodore Lane Bean, State Senator, was the orator of the day. The tablet was designed and carved by Miss Martha M. Hovenden, who did such fine

work on the Signers of the Declaration of Independence Tablet on the opposite wall.

The names of the Framers of the Constitution are carved on the two panels, by the side of the seals of the States they represented. The lettering behind the head of the figure in the central panel is the Preamble of the Constitution.

> "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The figure symbolizes the wisdom, balance, life and vigor of the document written in Philadelphia 154 years ago, by those men whose names are carved on the stone. The olive branch particularizes the "general welfare" and "domestic tranquility," and the sheaf of arrows "the more perfect union" and "common defense."

The tablet is a memorial to Thomas D. Sullivan of Philadelphia and a tribute to President Woodrow Wilson—the World War President.

The Litany Desk

The Litany Desk commemorates Washington's prayers for the Nation. The first of June, 1774, was a day of prayer for peace between England and the Colonies. Washington wrote in his diary, "June 1st, went to church and fasted all day." The government photographed the diary so that Dr. Burk might copy it and cut it in brass for the American people to read.

In the windows of the porch, Dr. Burk had placed Washington's valedictory prayer for the American people.

"I commend the interest of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God and those who have the superintendence of them to His holy keeping." His prayer for the Nation is illuminated on vellum at the base of the cross. This is the work of Beatrice Fox Griffith. Every day during the war there were prayers here for our men in the service.

The Prayer Desk and Choir Stalls

The Prayer Desk given by the Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R., is in memory of Mrs. Holstein, who saved the Headquarters for the United States. This wonderfully beautiful piece of carving was done by Mr. Edward Maene, the great carver and sculptor. Mr. Maene, also carved the choir stalls. Each stall commemorates a brigade. The first

one is Washington's Life Guard, and the second is the Pennsylvania Brigade. The Continental Soldiers are carved in oak and their uniforms are all properly colored. Each stall is nineteen and a half feet high, of hand carved oak. Competent architectural authority has declared these to be the finest choir stalls in the United States.

The only two Presidents to have visited the Chapel while in office are honored by Choir Stalls. That in honor of President and Mrs. Harding, was the gift of the Honorable Rodman Wanamaker. The Roosevelt Choir Stall was given by Helen Kellogg Verner in tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt and in memory of her sister, Fannie A. Kellogg.

The Flags of the Revolution

Over the Choir Stalls are the reproductions of the flags of the Revolution, beginning with the Commander-in-Chief's Standard, with the six pointed stars. The original flag is in the Museum with his Marquee, the tent which he used as his headquarters during the first week at Valley Forge, and throughout the War. The next flag is that of the First Philadelphia Regiment, then what is called the Betsy Ross Flag, and then the Pulaski Standard.

The Misereres

The Misereres of Europe are called "Nodding Benches" in England. The corbel under the seat is carved on a slope, so that if a man should go to sleep during service, he will slide off and awake automatically. So far we have had no use for them, but Dr. Burk always said there was nothing like being prepared for an emergency. The Morris stall was given in memory of Captain Samuel Morris of the Philadelphia City Troop. The story is told of the first Morris to settle in Philadelphia. He went home one day and his wife told him there was nothing to eat. He replied that the Lord would provide. He went out to hunt some game but he did not find any. His wife went upstairs to pray, and when she came down found that the cat had brought in a rabbit for dinner. Carved on the corbel is the cat bringing home the rabbit. The Sacristy Door is given in memory of General Huntington, who commanded the Connecticut Brigade at Valley Forge. It is wonderful not only for the beauty of the design but also for the hardware. All the ironwork was hammered on the forge by Mr. Samuel Yellin, who also made the famous gates at the entrance of the Chapel. When Lord Charnwood was here he told Dr. Burk that he had never seen anything finer than this lock in the Museums of Europe. During the war, one of the

sailors asked Dr. Burk if the grill were a letter box. Dr Burk replied that it was the minister's periscope, through which he could see if the organist was in position without opening the door.

The Washington Portrait

Above the door is a remarkable portrait of Washington by Gilbert Stuart. It belonged to Washington Irving and once hung in his library at Sunny Side. It was given to the Valley Forge Historical Society by Dr. J. Ackerman Cole of New York and will eventually hang in the Library.

The Altar

The altar is one block of Indiana limestone weighing over ten tons. It is the gift of Mr. Rodman Wanamaker. He gave the altar and reredos in memory of Washington and those who with him achieved our independence. In the steps of the altar are carved Tennyson's lines—

"his work is done.
But while the races of mankind endure,
Let his great example stand
Colossal, seen of every land,
And keep the soldier firm, the statesman pure.
'Till in all lands are thr' all human story
The path of duty be the way of glory."

On the front of the altar is the name plate from Washington's coffin. In 1837, when they were moving the body in its lead case from the old tomb to the new, the old coffin had decayed and the plate had fallen off. It was not discovered until after the sarcophagus had been sealed. The undertaker claimed the plate and it was afterwards sold at auction in Philadelphia and bought by Mr. Havemeyer of New York. It is a plate of Sheffield silver with Washington's name, date of birth and death.

On Sunday, October 4th, 1925, the Washington family presented the Washington Arms Flag, the wrought iron flag bracket and the handle from Washington's coffin. Another was the gift of America to England in 1924, and is now at Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the Washingtons.

The Sanctuary Flags

To the right of the altar are the Army and Navy Flags of the Revolution, and on the other side are the flags of France. The blue flag is thus described in a manuscript of the year 1304: "The King of France has three fleurs de lys of gold." The white flag is the Bourbon Royal Standard. The French flags are placed here in honor of King Louis XVI of France who acknowledged the freedom of our Na-

tion and formed an Alliance with the New Nation. The French Alliance was first celebrated by Washington and the American Army at Valley Forge, May 6, 1778. These beautiful flags of France were made in Paris and presented to the Chapel by the Honorable Rodman Wanamaker, who also presented the American flags of the Revolution.

The Vases

Five of the vases of the Chapel were given by the Daughters of the War of 1812 in memory of Washington, the first President. Now we are asking individuals, schools and societies to furnish the flowers for every day of the year, because every day commemorates a victory of our flag. Recently Miss Casey, daughter of Admiral Casey of Washington, gave $200.00 to endow her father's birthday. Perpetually on that anniversary, flowers will be placed on the altar in his memory and as his gift to the Nation in tribute to the men who won the victory of the day. Before that she had endowed her mother's birthday. Colorado State Sunday was endowed by Mrs. Minnie B. Hall Murphy De Sota and the Ohio State Sunday by the Colonial Dames of Ohio; Tennesseee State Sunday by the Colonial Daughters of Pennsylvania in New York City.

The Cross

The Cross of unusual grace and beauty and of unique form was given by one of the Lincoln family in memory of Abraham Lincoln. The exquisite carvings on the base are renowned.

The Clergy Seats

The Clergy seats on either side of the altar are in memory of Washington's Rectors. The cushions are made in blue and white because Washington's Life Guards wore blue coats with white facings. It is just as if we had taken one of the coats and made cushions out of it. On Sunday the ushers wear the uniform of Washington's Life Guards, with red vests and blue and white coats, etc.

The Sanctuary Archway

In the Archway Dr. Burk had carved the arms of the forty-four States, which were in the Union when he began this work thirty-eight years ago. He began without a cent of money and without a soul to help him. Some of his many friends encouraged him by telling him he was crazy to build a Chapel at Valley Forge because he could never raise enough money and no one would come here. They thought he wanted $20,000. So far the Chapel has cost, with the bells, approximately $400,000.

Since neither State nor Nation help in the maintainance, we are asking every visitor to make some contribution, large or small, for the support of this work. The Chapel is kept open every day of the year.

The Windows

Over the altar is the marvelous window given by the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania in memory of Martha Washington. The window represents service through sacrifice and is based upon our Lord's word, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Our Lord is represented in relation to man's five-fold inheritance. The central opening depicts religion. In the center is the Crucifixion and above it are the three Marys bringing the Easter Message. To the left are institutions—the family, the church, the state, and to the extreme right is art. In the lower right hand corner is the picture of our Lord holding in His arms a model of this chapel which was inspired by faith in Him. This represents architecture and sculpture, painting, music, and the appreciation of beauty.

Over the door is the Washington Window, with thirty-six scenes in the life of Washington, beginning in the upper left hand medallion with the baptism of Washington and ending in the lower right hand with him reading his Bible at the close of the day of Mount Vernon. Washington at prayer at Valley Forge is seen in the central opening over the door, the second on the left. This was given by the Pennsylvania Daughters of the American Revolution in the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars as a memorial of George Washington. There are thirteen windows in all beginning with the great Christ window, the Martha Washington Memorial. The others are placed in the following order: Carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth, the New Birth and the New Freedom, Freedom of the World, Discovery, Expansion, Revolution, Patriotism, Democracy, Union and the American, the General Washington Memorial.

The windows, the work of Nicola D'Ascenzo of Philadelphia, are in red and blue, so with the white walls between, the Chapel is filled with the National colors. They are pronounced by English Art Glass workers to be among the great windows of the world.

The Lamps

The lamps of the Chapel are all hand-carved lead. They are the work of Hollingsworth Pearce. Each one is a memorial.

The Roof of the Republic

The ceiling is the Roof of the Republic with every State of the Union represented with the arms carved and colored. The States are placed in the order in which they came into the Union, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc. The ceiling is supported by angels to represent God's Providence, and pelicans in the choir to represent man's sacrifice because it is only through the providence of God and the sacrifice of man that the republic can exist.

The Organ

We have a remarkably fine organ, the gift of Mr. William L. Austin, of Rosemont, in memory of his ancestor, Lieut. David Snyder. The first time the organ was played was when Dr. Burk asked two hundred and fifty sailors and marines to sing America. One morning during the first world war he was coming through the woodland to take his place in the Chapel when he heard the organ music. When he came in he found a soldier from California playing the organ and more than one hundred of the soldiers listening to the music. After they had been shown the Chapel and the museum, they fell in line to march away. Dr. Burk went out to see the boys off, and one of them called him and asked him if they could sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic with the Organ. Dr. Burk replied, "Of course, you can." The order was given and they marched back into the Chapel. At the close of the Battle Hymn they all fell on their knees for Dr. Burke to ask God's blessing on them before they left Valley Forge for France.

The Pews of the Patriots

The Pews are the Pews of the Patriots. Each pew commemorates a patriot or a group of patriots. The President's Pew is in memory of Washington and Monroe, who were at Valley Forge and later became Presidents. It also commemorates President Theodore Roosevelt who was the only President to visit the Chapel while in office, until President Harding came on June 5, 1921. As President, he occupied the pew and then went out and preached to over fifteen thousand people in the Woodland Cathedral.

The Pew Screens

The Pew Screens are in honor of the Major Generals and Brigadier Generals at Valley Forge. Their names are carved on the base, and above are the Flags of the Revolution, carved and colored. These screens and pews are the work of G. Gerald Evans, who also made the Roof of the Republic

The Chapel

The Chapel was designed by the late Milton B. Medary, Jr., who was selected by the University of Pennsylvania, in a competition held for that purpose. It is considered by architects to be one of the most beautiful chapels in the world. So many men and women came here during the first world war to dedicate their lives to God and Country that President Wilson named this Chapel the "Shrine of the American People."

The Cloister of the Colonies

To the west of the Chapel is the Cloister of the Colonies, with its thirteen Bays and the Star Spangled Banner National Peace Chime which was dedicated on the Fourth of July, 1926. These fourteen bells have since been incorporated into the Washington Memorial National Carillon consisting of forty-two bells. They are played every hour on the hour from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. every day except during service on Sunday.

In the garth enclosed by the Cloister is the beautiful statue by Bela Pratt, Sacrifice and Devotion, given in honor of the Mothers of the Nation. In the New York bay is the open air pulpit and in front of it is the Woodland Cathedral formed of trees from Mount Vernon, planted in the form of a cross.

The Porch of the Allies

To the east of the Chapel is the Porch of the Allies with its beautiful bays in honor of Von Steuben, DeKalb, Lafayette and Rochambeau. The Pulaski is yet to be given. These bays form the entrance to the Patriots Hall in which is the Valley Forge Museum of American History. It includes Washington's Marquee and his Headquarters' Standard, the flag which gave the stars to Old Glory. There are also relics of every period in American History.

The Churchyard

The Churchyard, adjoining the Chapel is beautiful, secluded and peaceful, surrounded and adorned by trees and shrubs—especially the dogwood, for which Valley Forge is famous.—The sale of lots is not limited to members of the Chapel.

30% of every dollar received is placed in a special endowment fund for the Churchyard.

Rector's Message

Things that have stood the test of time are increasingly precious to us in a world of revolution and chaos.

Valley Forge—all of Valley Forge—is numbered among the tried and true traditions. I say all of Valley Forge, because I want it all—the Park, the Chapel, the Museum, all people who work here, all those who generously give their time and energy to us to sense a perfect unity and cooperation in preserving and protecting the influence of this our National Shrine.

The Park Commission have for so many years conscientiously and efficiently managed these historic grounds. Dr. Burk had the vision of the chapel of wondrous beauty and brought to a focus all the thoughts and suggestions of relating patriotism and religion. How nobly he achieved this is a matter of history and pride to all of us.

Just as our museum preserves the treasures of days gone by, so our new plans carry us into the future. The music center and the educational programs are filling our schedules and fulfilling our purposes. We are glad to maintain a national and a local program. The patriots in distant places can have an increasing awareness of their membership in Valley Forge, and at the same time, our neighboring friends and visitors can carry on the different activities.

America is on the march for national unity, world friendship and progress. Valley Forge must be the inspiration.

All people—"the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues" will find a welcome, we shall be teachable to the end in order to learn always the things that are right to do and pray for grace and strength to fulfill the same as we maintain and build the church universal where patriot dreams come true.

JOHN ROBBINS HART.

Washington's Prayer for the United States of America

Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.